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Approved For Release 2005/11/23 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000500050021-2

DDI-3044-74

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Copy 2 of 5  
1 October 1974

Series B

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT: Southeast Asia Trip Report, 1-21 September 1974

1. When I think of Southeast Asia, I am reminded of a man peering through a kaleidoscope. He carefully picks it up, looks through the eyepiece and gradually the myriad colors begin to take recognizable shape and forms. And just at the moment when the viewer is about to deliver a grave pronouncement concerning what he is seeing, someone comes along and jostles his arms. The viewer looks again but the entire picture within the kaleidoscope has changed.

2. And so it is with Southeast Asia. Each person, American and Asian alike, forms perceptions of what he believes represents reality. Each view is somewhat different from that of his neighbor. And even the views of the individuals constantly change -- with the tides of war, with the state of the economy, with the effect of the northeast and southwest monsoons on one's psyche, and perhaps a hundred other variants.

3. When thinking of the future of Southeast Asia, it is also common to go through fits of depression punctuated by moments of optimism -- to be buoyed up by the Western concept of straightline progress or to lapse into the shoulder-shrugging fatalism brought about by contemplating the Buddhist wheel of life.

4. I recently spent three weeks in Southeast Asia on an area refamiliarization trip. During that period I was in South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand, travelled up-country as well as visiting their capital cities and talked to a large number of U.S. country-team members and foreign nationals. From my observation of the countryside and the battlefields and from the conversations I held, I formed judgements concerning the present situation in Southeast Asia and the substantive questions which are uppermost in the minds of the intelligence community. I offer them for what they are worth as my very personal judgements, and emphasize they represent no one's views other than my own.

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Attachments: 1 - South Vietnam, September 1974  
2 - Cambodia, September 1974  
3 - Thailand, September 1974  
4 - Trip Itinerary and List of Personnel With Whom Discussions Were Held

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REMARKS

[Redacted]

An unusually good trip report  
by [Redacted] of this office -  
won't be your quick scanning -

[Redacted]

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